

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 08030 290640Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /136 W
-----107102 300528Z /23

R 281839Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO USMISSION GENEVA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8170
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

USMTN

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GW, EEC, MTN
SUBJ: US NON-TARIFF MEASURE REQUESTS - FRG

REF: GENEVA 6361

1. ON THE TWO NTM REQUESTS VIS A VIS THE FRG, THE
EMBASSY HAS THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND/COMMENT.

2. ROAD TAX - (KRAFTFAHRZEUGSTEUER) THIS TAX IS
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CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF PISTON DISPLACEMENT FOR
MOTORCYCLES AND PASSENGER CARS, AND ON THE BASIS OF
WEIGHT FOR TRUCKS. FOR PASSENGER CARS A TAX OF DM 14.40
IS LEVIED FOR EVERY 100 CCM PISTON DISPLACEMENT. THUS
FOR AN AVERAGE SIZE GERMAN CAR (1800 CCM) IT WOULD
AMOUNT TO DM 259 ANNUALLY. FOR AN AVERAGE AMERICAN CAR
(4000 CCM) IT WOULD AMOUNT TO DM 576 ANNUALLY.

3. CURRENTLY, THIS TAX IS DUE EVERY YEAR FOR EVERY CAR IN ADVANCE. THE AMOUNT MAY BE PAID SEMI-ANNUALLY (PLUS THREE PERCENT), QUARTERLY (PLUS SIX PERCENT) OR MONTHLY (PLUS EIGHT PERCENT).

4. ON APRIL 20, 1978, A FIRST READING OF A DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE TAX LAW TOOK PLACE IN THE BUNDESTAG. THIS DRAFT PROVIDES IN PARTICULAR THAT THE RATE FOR EVERY 100 CCM OF PISTON DISPLACEMENT BE RAISED BY 4.2 PERCENT TO DM 15. IT FURTHER PROVIDES THAT, IN ORDER TO SAVE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, ONLY ADVANCE ANNUAL PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT IS UNLIKELY AS THE SPD FACTION OF THE BUNDESTAG FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL VOTE AGAINST THE PROPOSED CHANGE.

5. PHILOSOPHICALLY THE TAX HAS NEVER BEEN BASED ON CONSERVATION. IT WAS ORIGINALLY A LUXURY TAX AND IN THE 1920'S WAS COLLECTED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF ROADS. IN 1977 THE TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED WAS DM 5.9 BILLION.

6. ROTE LIST - WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY COMPLAINTS BY U.S. BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET THEIR PRODUCT INCLUDED IN THE LIST. GERMAN
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STANDARDS ARE MUCH LESS STRINGENT THAN THOSE IMPOSED BY THE USFDA. THERE ARE IN FACT U.S. PRODUCED PHARMACEUTICALS WHICH CANNOT BE MARKETED DOMESTICALLY, BUT ARE SOLD HERE.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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